MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : 15-7-1932.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : That is, was it not immediately after the interpellation was received by Government?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : It must be before that; and this need not necessarily be his only visit to the place.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Was it in his official capacity?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Certainly.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. My tours in the Shertallai taluk are regulated by the meetings of the Cochin Port Conservancy Board which are held on a fixed day every month.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Is it open to other members to make a speech now? This is interpellation time.

PRESIDENT : It was a question of personal explanation.

Widening and deepening of the Tettiyar.

265. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state if anything has been done in the direction of deepening and widening the lower reaches of the Tettiyar below the Kazhakkoottam bridge in the Trivandrum taluk?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The answer is in the negative.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Does the learned Secretary remember that during the last sitting of the Council he told me that an investigation would be taken upon *soon*?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : May I know whether the work will be taken up at least during the early part of next year?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Government will ask the Chief Engineer about it.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : The member is speaking on behalf of Government. Therefore, where is the necessity to ask the Chief Engineer? Last year, the member said that the question would be taken up soon. What did he mean by that? May I know whether the work will be taken up at least early next year?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The Chief Engineer will be asked to do it.

Sinking of a well at Ullur.

266. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the well sanctioned for the Ullur village in the Trivandrum taluk has been sunk ; and

(*b*) if so, when?

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MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) No. An estimate has been sanctioned for Rs. 810, and it is proposed to take up the work in 1108.

Promotion of an Assistant Surgeon.

267. MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any officer in the Medical Department in the grade of an Assistant Surgeon whose promotion was barred on account of grave irregularities in his official career;

(*b*) whether the said officer was given promotion contrary to the previous proceedings; and

(*c*) whether the grave irregularities were condoned by the Government?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these do not arise.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know the name of the Deputy Surgeon who was promoted?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know who is the senior-most Assistant Surgeon?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Investing the Protector of the Depressed Classes with powers for registering lands.

268. MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for not investing the Protecter of the Depressed Classes with powers of registry of the lands reserved for such classes?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The following extract from the G. O. defining the functions of the Protector of the Depressed Classes deals with his duties relating to land:—

"One of the most important functions of the Protector will be the selection and assignment of lands for the landless among the depressed classes. Some lands have already been reserved for them: but there is a complaint that the reservations made are not fair, that the land selected are generally unsuitable for habitation or cultivation and that they are generally inaccessible and far removed from places where the people generally have their work. It will be the duty of the Protector to inspect these areas to see if the lands are suitable and adequate and to revise the list of such lands, rejecting unsuitable areas and adding those which he considers as suitable.

The Protector should encourage the forming of settlements of the depressed classes in places where sufficiently extensive blocks of land can be set apart for them.

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